



# *The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

## *Office of Campaign & Political Finance*

*One Ashburton Place, Boston 02108*

*727-8352*

*Dennis J. Duffin  
Director*

August 1, 1986  
AO-86-17

Linda Noonan, Director  
State Governmental Relations  
NFIB/Massachusetts  
101 Tremont Street, Suite 609  
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Ms. Noonan:

This is in response to your recent request for an advisory opinion concerning compensation by a political committee for the use of a business organization's name.

You state that the National Federation of Independent Business ("NFIB") is planning to organize a multi-candidate political committee in Massachusetts. The organization wishes to allow the political committee to use its name for the limited purpose of identifying the political committee. You wish to know whether a payment of twenty-five dollars by the political committee would represent adequate compensation to the business organization. You state that this amount is consistent with what other NFIB sub-groups would be charged under similar circumstances. Since all activities of the proposed NFIB/Massachusetts political committee, predominately mailings, would involve only those already affiliated with the organization, you do not believe the use of the NFIB name by the committee would add to its value in terms of recognition or membership.

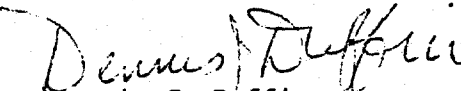
Section 8 of M.G.L. c. 55 provides that business corporations may not directly or indirectly contribute anything of value, nor make any expenditures, for the benefit of any candidate, or multi-candidate committee. An organization whose funds are substantially comprised of monies from business corporations is prohibited from contributing anything of value to a multi-candidate committee. Therefore, the NFIB/Massachusetts Political Committee must pay the NFIB the appropriate compensation for the use of the name so that nothing of value accrues to the committee from NFIB.

Based on the representations made by you, it is my opinion that a payment of twenty-five dollars per calendar year would represent appropriate compensation to NFIB from the committee. Given the limited usefulness of the name, a higher payment might actually result in NFIB being inappropriately enriched by the committee.

Linda Noonan  
Page 2  
August 1, 1986

This opinion has been rendered on the basis of representations made by you. Its sole application is to the limited use of this business organization's name by this political committee.

Very truly yours,

  
Dennis J. Duffin  
Director

DJD/rep